

Northwest Atlantic



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Cuban Research Report, 1982

by

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A. Status of the fisheries

The overall nominal catch by Cuban fishing vessels from NAFO area in 1982 showed an important increase of 6667.0 M.T. in 1981 to 18565.0 M.T. in 1982 (Table 1). This total catch represented the highest level obtained in the Northwest Atlantic during the last five years. A successful fishing operation was carried out in Subareas 3 and 4, where Redfish and Silver Hake constituted the directed species. On the other hand, squid (*Illex*) did not appear in the fishing ground, affecting the foreseen catch.

A total of 11 stern trawlers were engaged in the fishing operation, using mainly pelagic and bottom trawls in the Redfish and Silver Hake fisheries respectively.

1. Subarea 3

In this Subarea, fisheries were conducted in Divisions 3M, 3N and 3O. Redfish was the main species, which represented a 99.7 % of the nominal catch. It was made a cleaned fishery using pelagic trawls.

Table 2 shows the catches and the species composition. In relation to 1981 an increase of the 51% was observed. The total catch amounted to 6152.0 M.T. and the fisheries were conducted during the period April-August.

2. Subarea 4

As new bottom nets were introduced the catches of Silver Hake increased in the same measure, developing a satisfactory trawling activity.

There were caught 12413.0 M.T. in this Subarea which was higher than in previous years. Silver Hake represented the 96.0% of the total catch.

Concerning the Squid fishery, was caught only 93.0 M.T. corresponding with the by catch of the Hake fishery. In fact, directed fisheries were not conducted on Squid because there was not squid in the fishing grounds of the regulatory area.

B. Special Research Studies

Selectivity Study

A selectivity study was carried out during May, 1982 on Silver Hake in Division 4W.

Mesh selection data for silver hake in kapron codends of trawl nets were collected on board a Cuban commercial vessel fishing on the Scotian Shelf. The results obtained are presented and compared with previous studies in the area, including a girth-total length relationship. The "alternate haul" method was used with a 60 mm codend and a 60 mm mesh codend containing a 30 mm mesh liner.

Table 1. Nominal catches by Subareas during 1981 and 1982

| SUBAREAS | 1981 | | 1982 | |
|----------|--------|-------|---------|-------|
| | M.T | % | M.T | % |
| 3 | 4134.0 | 62.0 | 6152.0 | 33.0 |
| 4 | 2533.0 | 38.0 | 12413.0 | 67.0 |
| Total | 6667.0 | 100.0 | 18565.0 | 100.0 |

Table 2. Catches in Subarea 3, 1981 and 1982

| SPECIES | Catches (M.T) | | % | |
|----------------------|---------------|--------|-------|-------|
| | 1981 | 1982 | 1981 | 1982 |
| Atlantic cod | 1.0 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Atlantic redfish | 4050.0 | 6125.0 | 98.0 | 99.7 |
| Flatfishes | - | 0.0 | - | 0.0 |
| Groundfishes n.e.i | 37.0 | - | 0.9 | - |
| Silver hake | - | 1.0 | - | 6.0 |
| Red hake | - | 0.0 | - | 0.0 |
| Pollock | - | 1.0 | - | 0.0 |
| Atlantic mackerel | - | - | - | - |
| Squid | 46.0 | - | 1.1 | - |
| Atlantic Halibut | - | 1.0 | - | 0.0 |
| Haddock | - | - | - | - |
| Pelagic fishes n.e.i | - | 20.0 | - | 0.3 |
| Argentines | - | 1.0 | - | 0.0 |
| Total | 4134.0 | 6152.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 3. Catches in Subarea 4, 1981 and 1982

| SPECIES | Catches (M.T) | | % | |
|---------------------|---------------|---------|-------|-------|
| | 1981 | 1982 | 1981 | 1982 |
| Silver hake | 642.0 | 11969.0 | 25.3 | 96.4 |
| Atlantic redfish | - | 17.0 | - | 0.1 |
| Argentine | - | 53.0 | - | 0.4 |
| Red hake | 5.0 | 93.0 | 0.2 | 0.8 |
| Groundfishes n.e.i | 3.0 | 22.0 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Atlantic cod | 35.0 | 33.0 | 1.4 | 0.3 |
| Haddock | 14.0 | 41.0 | 0.6 | 0.3 |
| Mackerel | 3.0 | - | 0.1 | - |
| Squid | 1830.0 | 93.0 | 72.3 | 0.8 |
| Flatfishes n.e.i | 1.0 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Pollock | 0.0 | 84.0 | 0.0 | 0.7 |
| Atlantic herring | - | 1.0 | - | 0.0 |
| Atlantic halibut | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Witch flounder | - | 2.0 | - | 0.0 |
| Yellowtail flounder | - | 2.0 | - | 0.0 |
| Total | 2533.0 | 12413.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |